UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/472
25 April 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 24 APRIL 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith, a letter dated 24 April 1999 from Zivadin Jovanovic, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, concerning the past consequences of the aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization concentrated primarily on civilian targets, as well as the duty of the world Organization to stop that aggression against my country.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 24 April 1999 from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the President of the Security Council

It is a month today since the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) began its aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. That aggression is the most flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations since the inception of the world Organization and a setback to the foundations of the international legal order, as well as a crime against peace and humanity.

For the sake of truth and history, I cannot but note that the Security Council has ignored several requests made so far by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, whether those made before the NATO aggression to prevent it or those made afterwards to condemn it and take measures to halt it. It is not difficult to predict what kind of consequences that is going to have for the future of relations in the world and for the fate of the United Nations itself.

Let me, however, remind you and the Security Council in brief of the facts testifying to the character and the past consequences of the NATO aggression.

NATO aggressors have concentrated primarily on civilian targets, directly endangering the lives and fundamental human rights of the entire population of Yugoslavia. NATO bombs dropped on the towns and villages to date have killed about a thousand civilians, including a great many children. A few thousand civilians have sustained injuries and will be crippled for life. The mass killing of civilians in the mining town of Aleksinac, in Belgrade, Pristina and Nis, and of passengers on an international passenger train in the Grdelica gorge as well as of refugees from Bosnia and Croatia in several refugee centres, and massacre of a convoy of refugees on the Djakovica-Prizren road as they returned home, and countless other examples, will forever bear witness to crimes against humanity. In doing so, the NATO aggressors have used weapons prohibited by international conventions, with children very frequently being the victims. Proof of it are seven children killed in Srbica, five shepherd boys killed in the village of Doganovici and five-year-old Milica Rakic killed in Batajnica - they all died of the sprinkle and delayed effect of cluster bombs. There is evidence also that NATO uses other internationally prohibited weapons. By systematically and massively bombing towns and villages, NATO has caused an exodus of refugees. Prior to the aggression, 2,000 foreign representatives (Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM)) and the personnel of humanitarian and other organizations left Kosmet, and with the onset of bombing and devastation of residential areas and civilian deaths, there started a flux of refugees.

An assassination attempt made by NATO aggressors against the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on 22 April 1999 represents an organized terrorist act without precedent in the civilized world. That is a crime not only against a head of a sovereign, independent State, but also a direct attack on the will of a European people and on the fundamental democratic values of the civilization. It is incomprehensible that the Security Council has not yet

found it pertinent to condemn this criminal act which is, in itself, an attack on the foundations of international law.

Concurrently with the humanitarian, NATO has also created an environmental disaster threatening almost the whole of Europe, which was the subject of a separate letter which I addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the relevant United Nations agencies.

The destruction of a dozen private radio and television stations as well as of Radio-Television Serbia, which was bombed on 23 April, is an expression of the preponderance of one opinion, the biggest aggression against freedom of thought and a disgrace to civilization on the doorstep of a third millennium. Its purpose is self-evident: a media monopoly by NATO in order to manipulate world public opinion. This is more than a sign of alarm to those who care anything about truth and freedom, and a call for sobering up before the inquisition of NATO generals takes full control in their own countries and full control of the whole world.

Several thousand private homes and flats, some three hundred schools, dozens of hospitals and health institutions, hundreds of places of worship and cultural monuments, have been destroyed. Almost a million pupils and students had to stop attending schools and universities. The destruction of civilian factories has meant that more than half a million workers are out of work and approximately 2 million people without income.

These are but a few indicators of the effects of NATO aggression. All the effects - humanitarian, economic, environmental and health - are hard to see right now. Many of them will be seen much more clearly with the passage of time. It is clear, however, the effects will not be limited to Yugoslavia only. NATO has breached the Charter of the United Nations and directly threatened, and continues to threaten, international peace and security. Nevertheless, this is not a sufficient warning to, and reason enough for, its strategists to stop the aggression. What is more, however, NATO is trying, by combining pressure and various promises, to enlarge the number of participants in the aggression and, in particular, to draw the neighbouring countries into its plans. Simultaneously, attempts are currently under way in the Security Council to force - under the guise of alleged care for the refugees and guarantees for their safe return - a post festum legalizatio. of aggression and to involve even the United Nations in the crime against peace and humanity.

In view of the above, I urge you once again to take the initiative to have the Security Council, in accordance with its responsibilities spelled out in the Charter, condemn in the strongest terms the NATO aggression, violation of the Charter and international law, and take specific steps to end the aggression without delay. This will, at the same time, contribute to the creation of conditions for restoring peace and stability in the region and for settling all issues by political means.

(Signed) Zivadin JOVANOVIC